

DO IT AT YOUR OWN PERIL



CA Ketan Rambhia

Email : ketan.r@skrambhia.com



FROM THE DESK OF CHAIRMAN

Recent documentary by BBC on Modi and India i.e. "India – The Modi Question" has created a lot of debate in India and the world over, and for reasons. As the said documentary is banned in India, as per media reports go and from social media we can learn that the so called documentary is in two parts, in first part the issue of 2002 Gujarat riots has been evoked when PM Narendra Modi was Chief Minister of Gujarat, and in second part, continuing attacks on PM Modi, discusses 'BJPs unprecedented victory in 2019 and what it means to have a government with a stronger mandate. "Essentially the gloves are off," one of the commentators, Chris Ogden, a political scientist at the University of St. Andrews, says. The series then moves to August 5, 2019, and the changes to the legal status of Jammu and Kashmir (i.e., the abrogation of Article 370). It shows scenes of what are described as protests in Jammu and Kashmir, followed by a discussion on the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) protests, and the riots in Delhi in 2020. The second part also includes interviews with protestors, families that have been detained under the NRC and the kin of those who died allegedly at the hands of the police during the Delhi violence of 2020. This is very unfortunate that BBC has raked up settled matter which is more than two decades old and the then Modi Government of Gujarat has been cleared of all the charges of Government led riots etc, on one hand, and other matters which are purely internal to the Indian nation.

The timing of this documentary is definitely not just co-incidence but seems to be a well thought game-plan to demonise the present Indian Government led by PM Modi to weaken political clout of ruling party and general political atmosphere by evoking controversial issues. The intention also seems to divide Indian people based on religious sentiments and destabilise peace and harmony in the country. There has been furore against this documentary by Indian diaspora all over the world and in India and for right reasons. The documentary not only undermines PM Modi but also undermines India as a country. It has directly attacked PM Modi but that is not all, it is also challenging validity of Indian judicial rulings at the highest level and has effect of undermining our judicial system, which cannot be accepted. India's judicial system, even with its flaws, is one of the best in the world. The allegation on BBC, that this documentary is nothing but a witch-hunt, is absolutely correct as the decades old settled issues are unnecessarily being raked up for self-gains.

PM Modi has earned himself name as one of the best administrator and being praised world over by various global leaders, and he has proved with his political and diplomatic acumen, sheer hard work, and strong nationalistic fervor. This has brought India as a nation to frontline competing with developed nations and economic giants. India's development has taken leaps under his leadership, and India has helped needy nations in times of need, which has earned India many friends. Now India's gains definitely resulted in loss to someone / some nations. The vested interest world over and maybe within India seems to have made a game-plan to weaken PM Modi's clout and gain in the process. This seems to be beginning before the ensuing India's general elections in 2024. BBC has taken route of yellow journalism.

Russia, the long-standing friend of India, has commented on the documentary as “info war against global power with independent policy”. This says it all. This is not about PM Modi, but increasing political and economic clout of India on world forum under his leadership which is pricking like thorn to many, especially western countries who cannot see Asian tiger roaring, who cannot see India rising on all fronts on world map. Uganda-born Indian-origin peers in the House of Lords, Dolar Popat, wrote to the director general of the *BBC*, Tim Davie, condemning the documentary as “one-sided” and asking him to stop the *BBC* from airing the program to “avoid exasperating [sic] the already tense situation” between British Hindus and Muslims. The “false representation has old wounds [sic] by creating hatred between British Hindus and Muslims by attempting to paint India as an intolerant nation where Muslims are persecuted”, Mr. Popat said. “It is a sordid conspiracy of lies meant to sully the reputation of a growing global power and its popular leader by an ex colonial master reeking with envy at the rocketing fortunes of its former subject nation”, writes Vivek Gumaste in *The Sunday Guardian* and rightly so. Various other views will also come and people may be critical of ban on documentary as against freedom of speech.

All said and done, the fact is one can love PM Modi, hate him but cannot ignore him. The same goes true for India. One more thing comes out that the haters have no major issue to discuss against present Indian Government and therefore keeps on raking up 2002 riots and pseudo-secularists try to create divide between citizens based on religious sentiments. This is dangerous game as it hurts all sections of society and the nation. People of India must understand true intentions behind such biased journalistic endeavors and try not to get carried away by it. India's young population is leading the country to new heights in terms of knowledge, technologies, entrepreneurship, skills and so on. Our focus as Indian citizens should be on doing right things and ignore such biased media stories. Let the world blame Modi, shame India, at its own peril.

Thank you all..... Always in Gratitude

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